CLAIMS

1. An organic electroluminescent element comprising an anode and a cathode having therebetween an emission layer containing a phosphorescent compound and an layer adjacent to the emission layer, the layer adjacent to the emission layer being provided between the emission layer and the cathode, wherein

the layer adjacent to the emission layer comprises a compound having an electron withdrawing group; and exhibiting a HOMO level of - 5.7 to - 7.0 eV and a LUMO level of - 1.3 to - 2.3 eV.

- 2. The organic electroluminescent element of claim 1, wherein the compound exhibits a HOMO level of 5.9 to 6.8 eV and a LUMO level of 1.6 to 2.1 eV.
- 3. The organic electroluminescent element of claim 1, wherein the electron withdrawing group is at least one of CF_3 , -F, -CN and -SO₂R, R representing an alkyl group.
- 4. The organic electroluminescent element of claim 1, wherein the organic electroluminescent element emits blue light.
- 5. The organic electroluminescent element of claim 1, wherein the organic electroluminescent element emits white light.

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6. A display comprising the organic electroluminescent element of claim 1.

- 7. An illumination comprising the organic electroluminescent element of claim 1.
- 8. A display comprising the illumination of claim 7 and a liquid crystal cell as a display means.